

**House Study Bill 122 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON MILLER)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for vision screening for school children.  
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.39D Vision screening.

2 1. By January 1 after the start of the school year that a  
3 child enrolls in kindergarten and by January 1 after the start  
4 of the school year that a child enrolls in grade three, in  
5 a public or nonpublic school, the parent or guardian of the  
6 child shall present to school personnel certification that the  
7 child within the previous twelve months has undergone an eye  
8 examination, and the results of the examination.

9 2. The requirement for an eye examination may be satisfied  
10 by any of the following:

11 a. A vision screening or comprehensive eye examination by a  
12 licensed ophthalmologist or licensed optometrist.

13 b. An eye chart screening conducted at a pediatrician's  
14 or family practice physician's office, a free clinic, or the  
15 child's school.

16 c. An online vision screening through a program approved by  
17 the director. An online vision screening may be conducted by  
18 a child's parent or guardian.

19 3. A child shall not be prohibited from attending school  
20 based upon the failure of a parent or guardian to present to  
21 school personnel the documentation required by subsection 1.

22 4. The department shall establish procedures to contact  
23 parents or guardians of children in need of vision correction  
24 based on the results of an eye examination required under  
25 subsection 1 in order to provide information on obtaining  
26 necessary vision correction. The department shall consider use  
27 of the statewide immunization registry or a private contractor  
28 as a means of identifying and contacting the parents or  
29 guardians of such children.

30 5. The department shall adopt rules to administer this  
31 section.

32 EXPLANATION

33 This bill requires the parent or guardian of a child in  
34 a public or nonpublic school to present certification that  
35 the child within the previous 12 months has undergone an eye

1 examination, and the results of the examination, to school  
2 personnel by January 1 after the start of the school year that  
3 the child enrolls in kindergarten and by January 1 after the  
4 start of the school year that the child enrolls in grade three.

5 The eye examination requirement may be satisfied by a vision  
6 screening or comprehensive eye examination by a licensed  
7 ophthalmologist or licensed optometrist; an eye chart screening  
8 conducted at a pediatrician's or family practice physician's  
9 office, a free clinic, or the child's school; or an online  
10 vision screening through a program approved by the director of  
11 the department of public health, which may be conducted by a  
12 child's parent or guardian.

13 The bill specifies that a child cannot be prohibited from  
14 attending school based upon the failure of a parent or guardian  
15 to present the required documentation to school personnel.

16 The bill requires the department of public health to  
17 establish procedures to contact parents or guardians of  
18 children in need of vision correction based on the results of  
19 an eye examination required by the bill in order to provide  
20 information on obtaining necessary vision correction. The  
21 bill directs the department to consider use of the statewide  
22 immunization registry or a private contractor as a means of  
23 identifying and contacting the parents or guardians of such  
24 children.